The Pocahontas Times.

Andrew & Norman Price, Owners. *"Montani Semper Liberi!"* *Andrew Price, Editor*

VOL. 15, NO. 45. MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA, JUNE 3, 1898. $1.00 PER YEAR

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For The Pocahontas Times

The Treasure Trove.

XVII.

WESTON, being in possession of the knowledge that Harvey had the large sum of money before he died, was able to form the conclusion that this mysterious paper with its meaningless words must be the memorandum of the hiding place of the treasure. A man feeling an attack of some other serious sickness coming on, would naturally think, in those troublous times, when among strangers, of hiding his money and keeping a written memoranda of the place, but would be averse to put directions down on a piece of paper which if lost or stolen could be read by any one and divulge the secret of the hiding place.

He made a copy of the scrawl, and went home with Mr Saunders, leaving old Abe McClusky and his wife very much concerned over the news they had heard. At Mr Saunders' he made a copy of the matter again and mailed it to a friend of his in the City of New York, asking him to have it translated by someone who was expert at finding the lost keys of ciphers. In the meantime Mr Saunders, who was by this time intensely interested in the case, had him make his home with him, and it was to these days that he looks back as the period when that "visitation to the heart and the brain," of which Emerson writes, began.

In a few days he received a letter from his New York friend, saying that he had submitted the record to a cryptographer, who in turn had explained to him that it would aid him very materially in his work at deciphering the cryptogram if he was put in possession of all the facts concerning the finding of it, the time it was written, if known, by whom written, and under what circumstances.

To this Weston replied that it was found among the papers of a man who was traveling in West Virginia, in 1863, and who had fallen sick and died at a house along the route.

After this was received, the cryptographer seemed to have very little difficulty in interpreting the mysterious writing. The translation was submitted in a few days. Weston's friend wrote him also that to get the paper he had been obliged to pay him $25, which he would please remit. The translation was a bitter disappointment. It read:

"To J. E.

Upon receipt of this dispatch two regiments of infantry to converge with me to meet at Moorefield a large force of the enemy, now moving southward, per diagram. IMBODEN.

"And this ends the whole thing" mused Weston. "Three months and a couple hundred dollars to find poor old Harvey's grave, and a gray mule. I believe that he hid that money out some where. He would hardly take it in with him when he got sick, though it is a very suspicious circumstance that old McClusky has quadrupled his farms since the war. Well, home we go, after selling that horse and paying that $25," and then his sweetheart came in and was intensely sympathetic upon finding that the full and complete record of the hidden treasure had turned out to be a military dispatch which had never been delivered. Mary fully appreciated the extent of the disappointment, and under these favorable circumstance the bond between them was tacitly acknowled from that time. The sweetest moment of life is when this silent message passes between two homeless hearts to be followed, maybe years later, by the only only open confession which is good for the soul.

Weston went home and duly reported the matter to his father. Mr Weston had settled on the question of investment and established himself in business on a smaller scale than formerly, and the son entered the store and worked as he had never worked before. The air of the mountains had made a new man of him, said all his friends. Weston may have acknowledged to himself that there were other developing influences at work besides, for letters passed regularly between him and his sweet heart. He wrote by return mail; she in a couple of weeks thereafter, for she set the pace. The busy city man could find time to sit down when his heart was full from reading her letter and answer it. The young country maiden did not have time —or did not dare—to do this, and she must consider well for two weeks what she could venture to put in a letter to him. In the fall Weston made a trip to Woodbine, much to his family's surprise, and was gone a week. At Christmas he did the same unaccountable thing, and then he was compelled by his sisters to tell them about the pleasant people he met there.

The bag of gold had never rested easier than during these months. Very unexpectedly, Weston was put once more on the trail of it. An article appeared in the newspapers concerning cryptography. It casually mentioned that there were a large number of frauds perpetrated by those who practiced it. That when they found a cryptogram which was indecipherable to them, they invented a translation, and were safe in doing so, as their victims, being unsuspecting, took no trouble to prove the translation. Weston acted on the hint. He took a copy of the paper to an expert, who was operating in his own city, saying that he had found it on the street, and, for curiosity's sake, would be willing to give five dollars to know what it meant. The expert gave him an answer to it in two days. His version of the same record read by the New York man, was:

"May 1, '92.—Sell lots in Buena Vista at once. Things are going to smash in a very short time. Take the first offer made for any property. G. D. R."

Evidently there was a lie out some where, but the fortune hunter did not know how to take advantage of it. At this time he happily thought of some public servants, or savants, who come in useful once every hundred years or so—the learned men of the Smithsonian Institution. To them he submitted the mystic scroll and asked them to read it if possible, sending in the two interpretations given him by the cryptographers. The answer he received in April, 1893, and it was eminently satisfactory.

It should be remembered that it has been stated that the man Harvey was at one time a captive of an Indian tribe and had learned the language. Weston's father remembered his fondness for using Indian words on every suitable occasion. When Weston thought of this he was not surprised at the following report:

Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Mr Sam'l Weston,

Dear Sir: Yours of recent date received, tubmitting the following:

Heta bynu hu nina bogna nike ba wela loosa A hana ke yeya hahat yeya bathena lana hiyu pawpaw inu.

We find that this is a record of a hiding place written in an Indian language, (Arapaho,) by a man of fair English education who has probably learned the language by association with that tribe. A free translation of it is given below. The connection is not perfect which is pobably due to the poverty of the language, and to the fact that Indian languages are not meant to be written, so much depending upon gesture, intonation, and facial expression:

TRANSLATION:

I am struck with a deathly sickness. On Turtle Creek, where the road crosses it, one hundred paces* to a rock surrounded by growing trees, forty (paces) to a cottonwood, forty (paces) to a cedar: Where the lines cross, here is hid among the pawpaws†, for my brother.

[*The figure like an inverted A, which was interpreted by the New York expert as a military diagram, and ignored by the Richmond man is supposed to follow the Indian custom of pictorial illustration and from its resemblance to a man walking to mean a pace.

[†Pawpaw, a West Virginia tree, and for the purpose of the scroll, an English word.]

AMERICAN GINSENG.

Scientific American.

For centuries Chinese ginseng (Panax ginseng) has been to China far more than quinine has been to America. Unlike quinine however its use has not been limited to certain classes of disorders. It has been used in America only as a demulcent, a mild aromatic and stimulant, for which purpose our materia medica recommends many more effective drugs. Not so in China; the conservatism of the Mongolian and his belief in the occult have maintained an exaggerated estimate of its efficiency. It has been employed by the Chinese as a specific for nearly every ailment that flesh is heir to, from the most trivial to the most serious. It is further thought, such is the superstitious belief, to procure and insure immunity from all sorts of diseases, and even to possess the power of prolonging life. It is well named panacea.

The esteem, nay veneration, in which it is held and the high price that it commands in the market have naturally led to a thorough search for a substitute, not only in eastern Asia but in other parts of the world. Japan and Korea have furnished roots that so closely resemble the true ginseng in form that their detection in samples of the genuine is attended with great difficulty. These roots are simply adulterants, since they lack the official qualities of the true root. America however, produces a plant (P. quinquefolium) that not only resembles the latter in appearance but also in its properties, and that has been an important article of commerce for more than a century and a half.

In 1714, Father Jartoux, a missionary in China, published "The Description of a Tartarian Plant called Gin-seng" in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. A copy of this letter fell into the hands of Father Lafitau, a missionary among the Iroquois Indians. In 1716, after diligent search and inquiry among his flock, he succeeded in finding a plant near Montreal, Canada, that answered well the description given by Father Jartoux.

Samples of this root were collected by the Indians and exported to China by the French. These shipments were so well received that a considerable trade was built up, much to the profit of the traders. In Quebec the root was purchased at 2 francs a pound; in China it was sold as high as 25 francs. Trade with China was at that time controlled by the Company of the Indies, which, believing that the market demand was slight, at first allowed its officers to handle ginseng as a private speculation. In 1751, however, seeing that the commerce in this root was becoming important, the company prohibited private ventures on the part of the officers and assumed control itself. In only a short time the price was advanced from 12 to 33 francs a pound. But, in 1752, owing to an excessive demand in France, a large quantity of the root was dug out of season and improperly dried in ovens. When this reached China it was found to be of such poor quality that it was refused. This practically ruined the Canadian trade.

The New England States and, later, the sister States as far west as the borders of the Mississippi, profited by the misfortune of their northern neighbors and gradually built up a trade with the Chinese that in 1858 amounted to 366,053 pounds, valued at $770,673, or an average price of $3.86 a pound. It will at once be noticed that the quantity exported in 1896 is only about half as much as was shipped in 1858, but that the average price has increased more than seven times. This increase is due to the market demand and an inadequate supply; the decrease in quantity to improper methods of digging more than any thing else. (The figures for the exports of 1897 have not yet been made publicly available.)

American ginseng is a perennial herb indigenous in almost all of the States east of the Mississippi, in the first tier of States west of that river, and in Canada. It is of very slow growth, even under the most favorable conditions, reaching a commercial size not sooner than the fourth year. In the forest, its native haunt, it rarely produces seed before that time, and even when older this is borne in comparatively small quantities seldom being more than fifty seeds to a plant. In a state of nature its only means of propagation is by means of seeds. These ripen in September. If, therefore, the plant be dug prior to the ripening of the seed, it is deprived of its only means of perpetuating itself. Yet this is the very thing that happens. The "sang" diggers, a class of people that eke out a livelihood by hunting this root, by trapping and shooting, exercise no judgment as to the season of digging. The plant is dug as soon as found, whether in April, August, or November. It is little or nothing to them that the quality is poorer and that the shrinkage is greater than when dug in season. It is also of small moment that the two Virginias have passed laws to prevent the digging until after the fall of the seed. Their nomadic life insures them against capture. and if they are accidentally caught they live at the expense of the State and go back to their old tricks as soon as released. The only other causes of the lessened supply of this root are the clearing of forest lands and the browsing and trampling of stock pastured in the woods.

The visible decrease in the supply of the wild root and the constant increase in the market price have led to many experiments in the cultivation of ginseng. But so frequent have been the failures that its culture has been declared impossible. Such is however not the case, since with proper attention to its peculiarities it may be grown successfully and profitably. It is of prime importance that the conditions of the forest be closely imitated. In fact, the best place to locate the plantation is in the woods, altho if provided with artificial shade, such as is afforded by an open lattice roof, the plots may be located in the garden or the orchard. It is essential that the beds be made in loose soil retentive of moisture and well supplied with humus, that they be kept free from tree roots, well shaded, fenced off to protect them from stock, and covered in winter with a mulch to prevent damage by severe frost. The seed must never be allowed to become dry or it will fail to germinate. The risk run in saving seed is all the greater since the seed must be protected until eighteen months old, as it will not sprout sooner; i. e., seed ripened in the autumn of 1897 will not germinate until the spring of 1899. The seedlings must be transplanted at least once before being set in the final beds. At all times these beds must be kept clear of weeds by hand. Ginseng will not tolerate the presence of [illegible] cultivation is out of the question. Such, in brief, are the principal points to be observed in the cultivation of the plant. The care necessary in the preparation of the root for market is no less important.

In the autumn of the sixth or seventh year—sometimes as early as the fifth—from the time of sowing the seed, the roots may be dug This is done not earlier than the latter part of September, after the seed has been gathered. Roots that have not attained a desirable size should be replanted, only the largest being marketed.

The operations of washing and drying must be very carefully done, since the mutilation of a root lessens its value in market. In the washing the roots are agitated with a broom in a tub of water. The water is frequently changed to insure cleanliness, and the roots, not perfectly clean at the close of the rough washing, are finished by by hand brushes. They are then dried on wire netting trays in a current of warm air, the fibrous portion, or "beard," as it is called, being rubbed off when it becomes brittle. This "beard" is sold to the local drug trade for people who like to chew ginseng. In the drying the roots lose about two-thirds of their weight and become very hard and brittle. They are then ready for shipment.

The cultivation of ginseng is a promising industry. The extension of the cultivated beds is not at present rapid enough to supply the deficiency in the wild root and an immediate glut is not likely. Should there be a temporary decline in price or should a glut occur, as has sometimes been the case, a grower need lose nothing, since he may leave the roots in the ground for one or more seasons, knowing that they are improving in size and quality. Other advantages in this industry are that it may be made incidental to general farming, may be started and continued without excessive outlay of capital, and may be confined to land that otherwise could not be used for cultivated crops. When properly managed, a very small area may be made to yield a very large proportionate return.

One grower, Mr George Stanton Summit Station, N. Y., obtained from 4½ square rods, in five years, 320 pounds of green root, which, when dried, would have been about 106 pounds, worth, at the price then ruling for cultivated root, $575. On the other hand, figures such as these must not be used to compute returns from an acre or acres, since the cultivation of ginseng in large areas is likely to prove infeasible from inattention to necessary detail. Ginseng is an exacting crop and will be disappointing if not properly managed.

WHO IS "UNCLE SAM?"

This query is suggested by the fact that no figure appears more frequently and conspicuously in the cartoons of the period than his or whose name is oftener repeated. Nothing seems to thrill the nerves or warm the blood like "Uncle Sam" and his favorite refrain, Humanity, Prtriotism and an Honorable Peace. Uncle Sam is the metophorical impersonation of all that is distinctively American. He is a part of all that he has ever met. as Tennyson would put it. Hence he is not Yankee, German, Irish, French, Hungarian, Slavic, Spanish, nor, which is best of all, English.

Uncle Sam is the genuine, cosmopolitan American, conglomerating and fusing into his make-up all nationalities and creeds, and hence he represents the stunning force of the physical and mental power of the civilized world at this period, the closing hours of the nineteenth century. He holds near his heart a flag that symbolizes the development of free thought and and unfettered conscience.

John Sherman, the old man eloquent of American politics, the Gladstone, so to speak, was about right when he said, "Spain threatens but does not mean to fight, England makes promises she does not mean to keep."

Uncle Sam connot afford to break his promises, for republics are founded on truth as the people understand it. While monarchies lean on pretenses and misleading phrases. Demagogues and crowned heads understand each other. They aim to deceive each other, and that, with them, is statesmanship or diplomacy. The parties referred to, have gone rather farther than they had intended, and now Uncle Sam is on his mettle and thinks he bears the people of all Europe, Asia, and Africa calling to him to give the signal to rise for liberty, truth, justice and equity among all nations. What he is going to do about it, the reader may make whatever conjectures he pleases, so he makes them bigger than anything that has yet happened in the world'f great history.

S. C. R.

The reception of the catalog of the officers and students of Hampden Sydney College, Prince Edward County, Virginia, is hereby acknowledged. From it we learn the one hundred and twenty-second session ends June 15, 1898. Hence the first session must have closed in June, 1776, and so the usefulness of this institution is cotemporous with the history of American independance and human liberty. Hampden and Sydney were the earlier exponents of the principles that led to the Declaration that makes July 4th, 1776, so memorable. The faculty consists of eight professors. Rev Richard McIlwaine is President. One hundred and twenty-eight students enrolled the current session. The next session opens September 13, 1898. There were two students from Pocahontas, Messrs J. A. Sydenstricker and J. S. Kennison; with twelve others from West Virginia. The names of the students represent many of the choicest people in the two Virginias.

No doubt the question has often occurred why is it at certain seasons of the year cattle are so much in the habit of standing in the streams. A close observer gives this as his opinion, and which seems, very plausible. He says that, so far as his observation extends, cattle are most in the habit of doing this in the early spring before the trees are fully leaved, for the purposes of shade. The sun being hot and the trees affording no shade, they resort to the streams for relief and find in the water a substitute for the comfort that shade trees afford them. He thinks the flies have nothing to do with it, for soon as the trees are in full leaf they are rarely if ever seen standing in the water.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Superintendent of Schools.

We are authorized to announce JAMES W. WARWICK as a candidate for the office of Superintendent of Free Schools of Pocahontas County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Free Schools, and kindly solicit your support in the Primary, June 4th, 1898.

Your obedient servant,
J. BARNET GRIMES.

Fellow Citizens of Pocahontas County:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Free Schools, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary Election, to be held on June 4, 1898, and earnestly solicit your support. Yours obediently.
WM. R. SUTTON.

To the Voters of Pocahontas County:

At the request of many of my friends, I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of Superintendent of Free Schools of Pocahontas County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary. If elected I pledge myself to do all in my power to advance the cause of the free schools of our county.

Respectfully,
J. A. MCLAUGHLIN.

County Commissioner.

We are authorized to announce Amos Barlow as a candidate for the office of County Commissioner for the County of Pocahontas, subject to the action of the Democratic primary to be held June 4, 1898.

To the voters of Pocahontas County:

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of Commissioner of the County Court of Pocahontas County, subject to the action of the Democratic party at the Primary to be held June 4th, 1898. Respectfully,
J. C. PRICE.

Clover Lick, W. Va.

House of Delegates.

We are authorized to announce I. B. MOORE, ESQ., as a candidate for the House of Delegates, before the Democratic primary election to be held June 4, 1898.

A correspondent of the Wheeling Register, May 18th, speaks of an interview with Isaac Smith, a Wetzel County citizen, who has reached the ripe age of 110 years, having been born in Pocahontas County in 1788. He was in the war of 1812 and the Mexican war, but says if his services are needed he is willing to raport for duty in the pending war.

$100 Reward, $100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly on the blood ond mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials. Address,
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Hall's Family pills are the best.

Commissioners Notice.

Isaac H Clutter's Administrator, vs. In Chancery.
Isaac H. Clutter's Heirs et als.

Pursuant to a decree rendered in above styled cause at the April Term, 1898, of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County, the undersigned Commissioner of said Court will proceed at his office in Marlinton in said county on the 4th day of June, 1898, to take, state, and report to Court the matters heretofore reported on in the above cause except that under said decree the Commissioner shall not allow to the Administrator any commissions, he not having made his settlements as required by law, and shall charge interest on all legacies after one year from the qualification of the Administrator, with interest upon the entire fund that came into the hands of the Administrator (as in the first report made in this cause), and shall charge the Administrator with the value of all legacies which went into his hands and have not been paid over by him, whether the legacies are specific or general.

At which time and place all parties in interest may attend.

Given under my hand this 4th day of May, 1898.

W. A. BRATTON,
Commissioner.